

# Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 30, 2017

## WALK-IN AREAS

No reports from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek.

## REGISTRATION AREA

There were a few groups out this past weekend however with the bad road conditions and added amount of snow throughout the state several groups decided to play it safe and stay home. Hunters in the decoy-only registration fields have been reporting back with most groups getting a few birds per group. The warmer temperatures have helped spread the birds out some and helping to get the birds moving out to feed by mid-morning on most days. The access into most of the fields was very limited last weekend however we have been working at getting more areas opened up as weather allows.

**Hunters are reminded that their 2016 Hunting and Fishing License expires on January 31, 2017 the 2016 Federal Waterfowl Stamp remains valid until June 30, 2017.**

## PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

No reports from any of the pass shooting areas again this week, with most of Lake Oahe frozen over the birds have moved into open water areas below the dam.

## SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

No reports on if the birds flying out west of Ft. Pierre has continued or if the striped green area west of Ft. Pierre has continued to see groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having success. Access into the fields remains tough, hunters wanting to access this area need to be prepared to use a snowmobile or UTV down the designated trails to get their decoys out or pulling a sled out into the field with decoys and setting up. The birds have continued to go East of Grey Goose Road on a regular basis through the solid and striped green areas, with some birds sitting in the fields. Even with access into the fields being tough hunters in the area have continued to have good success on most days.

## SUMMARY

Access trails into the decoy-only registrations fields is improving this week after more snow fell last week. Hunters are reporting back on getting some birds per group and that the birds have been coming out to feed much earlier this week with the warmer temperatures.

The solid and striped green areas have continued to have hunters and birds using the fields.

**For those planning on making a trip out to hunt after January 31<sup>st</sup> you are reminded to make sure you have your 2017 hunting license before coming out, the 2016 Federal Waterfowl Stamp remains valid until June 30<sup>th</sup>.**